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BUSINESS PLAN 1997-1998

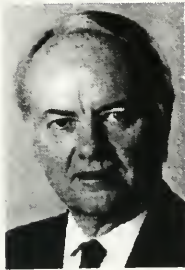


Ontario

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

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On peut se procurer gratuitement des exemplaires du présent document, des plans d'activités des ministères et d'une brochure intitulée, *La marche du progrès - La gestion du changement : Rapport aux contribuables de l'Ontario*, auprès de Publications Ontario, 880, rue Bay, Toronto. Les personnes de l'extérieur de Toronto peuvent écrire à Publications Ontario, 50, rue Grosvenor, Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1N8. Téléphone : (416) 326-5300 (Toronto) ou, sans frais d'interurbain en Ontario : 1 800 668-9938. Les malentendants peuvent composer le (416) 325-3408 (Toronto) ou, sans frais en Ontario, le 1 800 268-7095. Pour avoir accès électroniquement au présent document et aux plans d'activités des ministères, visitez le site Web du gouvernement à l'adresse suivante : www.gov.on.ca et cliquez sur Quoi de neuf?



Hon. Norman W.
Sterling

This 1997-98 plan for the Ministry of Environment and Energy is our blueprint for enhancing environmental protection, promoting the conservation of resources, and ensuring a secure energy future for Ontario.

We believe in results. That is why we are focusing more on the end product than on process. We are looking beyond traditional methods to achieve results. This means, for example, greater co-operation with other jurisdictions and sharing our resources more effectively. By working smarter and more efficiently, we will accomplish more at less cost to taxpayers.

Minister's Message

It also means our regulations need to work better. They have to provide the highest standard of environmental protection, while being flexible enough to allow for economic opportunity and job creation. They should be comprehensive yet understandable and predictable when applied.

We will also place more emphasis on building effective partnerships with communities, industries and organizations to achieve our shared goals of cleaner water, cleaner air, and a healthier ecosystem.

At the Ministry of Environment and Energy, our vision is a natural environment that is healthy and sustainable, and energy supplies that are reliable, affordable and safe. Our business is to fulfill this vision effectively and efficiently so that we can meet the challenges of the next century and beyond. ♦

The Honourable Norman W. Sterling
Minister of Environment and Energy

Making Progress—Managing Change

Ontario's Business Plans - Year Two

The government has a plan in place and that plan is working.

The objectives are to invest in priority services; maintain safe and secure communities; cut taxes to create jobs; and make government work for people.

This ministry's business plan supports these objectives. It is our report to you. It highlights what has been done over the past year, what is planned for the coming year, what targets have been set and how results will be measured.

The services that are valued most are being protected and improved. Jobs are being created. The economy is growing at an impressive rate. Taxes are being cut. The way this ministry operates is now simpler, more open and accountable.

This plan also demonstrates that much remains to be done to accomplish our goals. It charts a course for the future with specific action plans. The government is committed to refining and improving business planning and business practices across the Ontario Public Service. Taxpayers have a right to know how public funds are used. Your comments are welcome.

For those who would like to know what is planned across government, all ministry business plans are available free of charge at Publications Ontario and on the Ontario government web site at www.gov.on.ca under "What's New".

In addition, the government has produced a brochure entitled *Making Progress, Managing Change: A Report to Ontario Taxpayers*, which lists major initiatives from all 22 business plans. This brochure is available free of charge from Publications Ontario in Toronto (416) 326-5300 (local calls) or 1-800-668-9938 (toll-free long distance calls). For TTY inquiries, call (416) 325-3408 (Toronto) or toll free in Ontario at 1-800-268-7095.♦

Ministry Vision

The vision of the Ministry of Environment and Energy is:

a healthy, natural environment for everyone to enjoy; water, energy and material resources conserved and wisely used for present and future generations of Ontarians; and a safe, reliable, and affordable energy supply.

Our priorities as a ministry to fulfill this vision will be:

- setting clear policies, standards, and goals that will achieve our targets for environmental protection, conservation and energy planning
- monitoring and enforcing rules that protect our air, water and land
- encouraging partnerships and innovative solutions to complement regulations

The ministry will deliver its environmental and energy mandate while making the transition to a smaller, restructured and revitalized organization.

As of April 1, 1997, the ministry has approximately 1,600 staff located in the Toronto head office and in five regional, 15 district, and seven area offices. ♦

Key Strategies

The ministry is on the road to fulfilling its vision. Accordingly, it is concentrating resources on key environmental issues, those deemed to pose a high risk to the environment and public health. As well, it is focusing on key energy issues to protect consumers and create a more positive climate for job creation.

Achieving compliance will continue to play a major role in the ministry's day-to-day operations. However, over the next three years there will be a new emphasis on encouraging and helping communities and companies to adopt voluntarily good environmental practices beyond regulatory requirements. This is in line with a global trend among governments to use a more flexible mix of policy tools for achieving environmental goals.

It means that we will reach out more to companies and communities that can benefit from our extensive expertise in environmental management. This includes, for instance, providing guidance on watershed plans as a way to conserve water. As well, we will enter into performance contracts with industry sectors to achieve measurable targets. We will encourage continuous improvement and self-assessment. We will help to identify cost savings or product improvements that can flow from environmentally sound practices.

At the same time, some existing regulatory requirements are being updated to focus more on performance outcomes than on the means by which those outcomes are achieved. By making our regulations more efficient and effective we will strengthen our ability to protect the environment.

We will continue to develop policies and improve the regulatory framework for a more competitive and efficient energy system which is also safe and environmentally sustainable. A key strategy includes promoting competition in the electricity system. We will continue to encourage efficient use of energy and ensure that the regulation of natural gas provides a positive investment climate and benefits to consumers. ♦

Core Businesses

The ministry is in the business of:

- Environmental protection
safeguarding everyone's right to a healthy environment
- Conservation
encouraging environmentally sustainable uses of our water, land, energy and material resources
- Energy
promoting safe, reliable and competitively-priced energy.

Environmental Protection	
Goal	Result
To safeguard everyone's right to a healthy environment.	■ Cleaner air. ■ Cleaner water. ■ Cleaner land. ■ Healthier ecosystems. ■ Better compliance.
Strategy	
We will set clear directions through policies, programs, standards, and technology development, supported by monitoring and analytical testing. We will monitor and enforce the rules that protect our air, water and land. While continuing to be tough on polluters, we will work with other groups to prevent pollution and to achieve common environmental objectives. This includes inviting private enterprise, communities and individuals to find innovative solutions to environmental issues. These solutions will complement existing regulatory approaches. We will provide assistance for municipalities in financial need to upgrade water and sewage infrastructure. We will co-ordinate responses to environmental emergencies through the Spills Action Centre, ensuring polluters clean up and restore what has been damaged.	

Conservation	
Goal	Result
To encourage environmentally sustainable uses of our water, land, energy and material resources.	▪ Reduced consumption through efficient use of energy, water and material resources. ▪ More efficient infrastructure such as water and sewage services. ▪ More people and companies become better stewards of the environment.
Strategy	
We will continue to help promote Ontario's green industry sector and encourage the development of new environmental technologies. We will work with other groups to find innovative solutions to conservation issues. We will provide assistance to municipalities for water conservation measures. We will promote conservation activities at home and the workplace.	
Energy	
Goal	Result
To promote safe, reliable and competitively-priced energy.	▪ Competitive energy prices. ▪ Reliable energy supply. ▪ Environmentally sustainable energy. ▪ Economically sustainable energy.
Strategy	
We will develop a policy framework for an affordable, reliable and safe electricity system for all Ontarians. We will develop and maintain policies and regulations that facilitate an environmentally and economically sustainable energy system. We will eliminate barriers to more efficient production and use of energy. We will develop a strategy for restructuring the province's electricity sector to ensure competitive electricity prices and an improved climate for job creation. We will also maintain the five-year freeze on average electricity rates.	

Key Performance Measures

OUTCOME (results)	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	STANDARDS/ TARGETS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
Cleaner air	Emission levels (tonnes) of smog-causing pollutants.	Emissions (1985 base) of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds through voluntary initiatives reduced 25% by year 2005 and 45% by year 2015. Emissions of inhalable micro-particulates reduced 10% by year 2015.
Cleaner water	Volume of key toxic pollutants discharged to surface waters.	Tonnes of current Tier 1 toxic chemicals (as identified in the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality) discharged to surface waters reduced 90% by year 2000.
	Toxicity of effluent discharged by industries to surface waters.	Virtual elimination of effluents acutely toxic to fish.
	Continuous enhancement of drinking water supplies.	Demonstrated improvement.
Healthier ecosystems	Number of sportfish consumption advisories.	Number of annual sportfish consumption advisories in the Great Lakes reduced 10% by year 2010 (1995 base).
	Restoration of Great Lakes areas of concern under Remedial Action Plans (RAP).	60% of beneficial uses restored in RAP areas by year 2000. 9 of 17 RAP sites delisted by year 2000.

OUTCOME (results)	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	STANDARDS/ TARGETS
Healthier ecosystems	Volume of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) destroyed and decommissioned.	90% of high level PCBs currently in service to be decommissioned by year 2000. 50% of high level PCBs currently in storage to be destroyed by year 2000.
Better compliance	Percentage of municipal sewage treatment facilities in compliance.	100% of facilities to achieve compliance.
	Percentage of water treatment facilities in compliance.	100% of facilities to achieve compliance.
	Timely processing of applications for air emission Certificate of Approvals.	Average turnaround time per application reduced 30% by year 2000.
CONSERVATION		
Environmental stewardship	Level of participation in the Voluntary Challenge and Registry program to stabilize CO ₂ emissions in Ontario.	Increased participation in the Voluntary Challenge and Registry program.
	Tonnes of toxic substances and wastes reduced through voluntary pollution prevention partnerships and the Pollution Prevention Pledge program.	Reduce 200,000 additional tonnes by year 2010 (from 1996 levels).
ENERGY		
Environmentally sustainable energy production and use	Tonnes of greenhouse gases from energy use released into the air from Ontario sources.	Achieve Ontario contributions to the national target of stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000.
Economically sustainable energy	Energy use per unit of economic output.	Increase energy efficiency in Ontario's economy.
Competitive energy prices	Electricity rates are competitive with neighbouring jurisdictions.	Maintain 5-year freeze on Ontario Hydro's average rates.

Report on 1996-97 Achievements

Where we are today in meeting our key targets

The ministry, in partnership with municipalities, industry and the public, has made progress toward achieving its environment and energy goals:

- 15 per cent less emissions of nitrogen oxides and 4 per cent less volatile organic compounds, contaminants which contribute to smog. (Nevertheless, smog levels overall are getting worse because there are more vehicles on the road and because we make and use more products that pollute the air. About 50 per cent of Ontario's smog drifts in from the United States.)
- 90 per cent of effluents discharged directly by Ontario industries to surface water are non-lethal to fish.
- 88 per cent of municipal sewage works, and 99 per cent of municipal water treatment plants are in compliance.
- 12 per cent of beneficial uses (such as swimming, fishing) identified in the 17 "areas of concern" in the Great Lakes have been restored with one area (Collingwood Harbour) fully restored so far.
- 186,000 fewer tonnes of toxic substances and wastes are being generated by industries participating in the ministry's voluntary pollution prevention partnerships and the Pollution Prevention Pledge Program.
- 42 per cent of high level polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in service have been decommissioned; and of those in storage: 7 per cent high level PCBs and 15 per cent low level PCBs have been destroyed since 1995.
- 240 Ontario companies have signed on the Voluntary Challenge Registry to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. (Carbon dioxide is a major greenhouse gas that contributes to global climate change).
- 11 per cent reduction in Ontario's energy use per dollar of Gross Provincial Product. (This is an important measure of how efficiently we use energy).

Fiscal Year 1996-97 Highlights

Major initiatives by the ministry in the 1996-97 fiscal year to meet its performance targets included:

- passage of a new law will strengthen and modernize Ontario's environmental assessment system.
- introduction of an improved environmental approvals process with clear and precise rules which will result in better environmental protection at less cost to taxpayers.
- release of draft landfill standards for regulation, among the toughest in North America.
- release of a discussion paper on how to make Ontario's environmental regulations more effective and efficient in protecting the environment.
- introduction of clear and workable guidelines to allow contaminated lands now sitting idle to be cleaned up and put back into productive use.
- announcement of a three-year plan to upgrade and strengthen Ontario's environmental standards for more than 200 chemical pollutants.
- requiring gasoline refiners and blenders to produce less polluting gasoline formulations during summer months.
- introduction of legislation to give municipalities full title to provincially-owned water and sewage treatment plants serving their communities so that the ministry will concentrate on setting and enforcing tough performance standards.♦

Fiscal Year 1997-98 Key Commitments

OUTCOME (results)	1997-98 COMMITMENTS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
Cleaner air	Improving air quality in Ontario is a major focus of the ministry's environmental protection efforts. Key commitments to improve air quality include: ▪ finalizing an Ontario Smog Plan which involves industries committing to reduce smog pollutants through letters of cooperation and memoranda of understanding. ▪ introducing a new interim standard for inhalable micro-particulates (a component of smog which can damage our lungs). ▪ undertaking an inventory of quantity and sources of micro-particulates emitted into the air. ▪ creating tougher standards for seven priority airborne pollutants. ▪ exploring "emissions reduction trading" through a pilot project that would look at how economic incentives can be used to manage local airsheds. ▪ examining vehicle emission testing programs in other jurisdictions and working on program models that could be suitable for the testing of vehicle emissions from cars, trucks and buses in Ontario's smog zone.

OUTCOME (results)	1997-98 COMMITMENTS
Cleaner water	Key commitments to clean Ontario surface waters and provide safe drinking water include: ▪ introducing a program that will provide assistance to municipalities in financial need for rehabilitating water and sewage systems which have significant public health and environmental problems. ▪ optimizing the performance of five drinking water plants to meet health guidelines for trihalomethane, a by-product of chlorination. ▪ adding five industry sectors to those whose effluent limits are enforced under the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA), while continuing to track progress towards the virtual elimination of lethal effluents. ▪ strengthening eight priority standards for surface water quality and four standards for drinking water, while maintaining the comprehensive monitoring and reporting of drinking water quality
Healthier ecosystems	Key commitments to maintain healthy ecosystems include: ▪ establishing clean-up options for nine RAP sites; finalizing the clean-up plans for two RAP sites; and concluding the clean-up phase of three RAP sites. ▪ simplifying and standardizing the requirements for the storage, movement, destruction and decommissioning of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). ▪ releasing a draft strategy to reduce toxics in the environment, including a plan to reduce mercury pollution.
Better compliance	Key commitments for compliance activities include: ▪ maintaining the current compliance rate for sewage works and water treatment plants; ▪ reducing the average turnaround time for applications for air emission certificates of approval by 10 per cent.

OUTCOME (results)	1997-98 COMMITMENTS
CONSERVATION	
Reduced consumption	The ministry is working with industry and other groups on environmental stewardship activities such as the Voluntary Challenge and Registry program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and contribute to climate change commitments. The ministry will increase registration of companies in this program by 25%.
Efficient infrastructure	Building on past successes with 3Rs activities, the ministry is now developing new mechanisms (such as biosolids utilization) to decrease the amount of non-hazardous waste going to disposal.
Environmental stewardship	A new funding program will help eligible municipalities to upgrade their water and sewage plants. The ministry is working with Ontario companies in the business of environmental protection to develop new technologies and expand business. A survey will be undertaken to initiate a five-year profile of this industry sector.
ENERGY	
Environmentally sustainable energy production and use	To ensure ongoing competitiveness of electricity in Ontario and job creation, the ministry is developing a strategy in response to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Competition in Ontario's Electricity System and the extensive follow up consultations with a broad range of stakeholders.
Economically sustainable energy	We will ensure that the five-year freeze on average electricity rates is maintained.
Competitive energy prices	Similarly, to help protect the interests of Ontario consumers, the ministry will intervene, if necessary, in National Energy Board hearings on natural gas supply and delivery.

Core Businesses & Resource Allocations

Environmental Protection	
\$209.1 million	
Clean air	4.8 million
Clean water	119.6 million
Clean land	3.0 million
Healthy ecosystems	17.5 million
Compliance	64.2 million

Conservation	
\$ 89.5 million	
Resource conservation	31.0 million
Efficient infrastructure	55.1 million
Environmental stewardship	3.4 million

Energy	
\$ 10.9 million	

Administration and Main Office	
\$34.7 million	

Ministry of Environment and Energy	
OPERATING	
\$149.8 million	
Environmental protection	94.1 million
Conservation	10.1 million
Energy	10.9 million
Administration and main office	34.7 million
CAPITAL	
\$194.4 million	
Environmental protection	115.0 million
Conservation	79.4 million
TOTAL	\$344.2 million

